

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X Index No. 1:19-cv-10307 (JMF)
BRIAN VILLANUEVA,

Plaintiff,

-against-

**FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT**

FFO GROUP, LLC, PHILIP FALCONE, *Individually*, and
LISA FALCONE, *Individually*,

**PLAINTIFF DEMANDS
TRIAL BY JURY**

Defendants.
-----X

Plaintiff BRIAN VILLANUEVA, by and through his attorneys, Nisar Law Group, P.C.,
hereby complains of Defendants, upon information and belief as follows:

NATURE OF THE CASE

1. Plaintiff complains pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1981 and the New York City Human Rights Law, New York City Administrative Code § 8-107, *et seq.* (“NYCHRL”), and seeks damages to redress the injuries he has suffered as a result of being **Discriminated against on the basis of his race (Asian) as well as his association with a black person, and Retaliated Against.**
2. Plaintiff also complains pursuant to the New York State Labor Law, Articles 6 & 19 (“NYLL”) for **failure and refusal to pay Plaintiff earned wages and for reimbursement of out-of-pocket business expenses** and/or pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201, *et seq.* (“FLSA”) and the NYLL for failure and refusal to pay Plaintiff minimum wage owed for work performed.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. Jurisdiction of this Court is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343, as well as 29 U.S.C. § 216 (b).

4. The Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims brought under state and city law pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
5. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) as it is a judicial district in which all defendants reside.

PARTIES

6. At all times relevant, Plaintiff BRIAN VILLANUEVA ("Plaintiff") was and is a resident of the State of New York and Kings County.
7. At all times relevant, Defendant FFO GROUP, LLC ("FFO GROUP") was and is a domestic limited liability company duly existing pursuant to, and by virtue of, the laws of the State of New York.
8. At all times relevant, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE ("PHILIP FALCONE") was and is a co-owner of Defendant FFO GROUP.
9. At all times relevant, Defendant LISA FALCONE ("LISA FALCONE") was and is a co-owner of Defendant FFO GROUP.
10. Defendants FFO GROUP, PHILIP FALCONE, and LISA FALCONE shall be herein referred to collectively as "Defendants."

MATERIAL FACTS

11. By way of background, Plaintiff is Asian (namely, Filipino) and based on his facial features, it is visually obvious that he is Asian.
12. In or around January 2019, Plaintiff became employed by Defendants as a chef. Upon information and belief, the "FFO" in "FFO Group" stands for "Falcone Family Office." Plaintiff's primary duties and responsibilities included shopping for food and cooking meals for Defendants PHILIP FALCONE and LISA FALCONE (and others), for which

Plaintiff's compensation was \$100,000 in annual salary. Plaintiff's employment also included reimbursement for any out-of-pocket business-related expenses. Plaintiff worked primarily in the home of Defendants PHILIP FALCONE and LISA FALCONE, which is located in Manhattan, and was at all times an at-will employee.

13. Throughout Plaintiff's employment, he was subjected to race-based harassment, ultimately resulting in the constructive discharge of his employment.
14. For example, in or around March 2019, while Defendants PHILIP FALCONE and LISA FALCONE were discussing an Asian employee who previously worked for them, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE asked somebody to do an impression of this former employee's voice. Defendant PHILIP FALCONE was aware that Plaintiff was present during this time. In an attempt to imitate an Asian accent, this person responded in a comical and mocking tone of someone "speaking" Chinese. Although Plaintiff was visibly offended by this conversation, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE nonetheless laughed and complimented this portrayal.
15. Thereafter, in or around the end of May 2019, Defendants PHILIP FALCONE and LISA FALCONE began spending time at their home in the Hamptons on Long Island, New York, and told Plaintiff that he would be transitioning to working primarily at that location. Defendants leased an apartment near their Hamptons home for Plaintiff to stay during the week.
16. In or around June 2019, in the known presence of Plaintiff, Defendant LISA FALCONE told a story involving an offensive meme on a social media platform about Asians eating dogs.
17. In or around mid-July 2019, Defendant LISA FALCONE asked Plaintiff if he knew of

any other professional chefs that were available to assist with cooking dinner on July 13, 2019, as the Falcone Family was hosting a dinner party for approximately 13 people, with guests including musicians Alicia Cook (who goes by the stage name “Alicia Keys”) and Kasseem Dean (who goes by the stage name “Swizz Beatz”).

18. In response, Plaintiff told Defendant LISA FALCONE that his girlfriend was a professional chef and could be available to help. Ultimately, Defendants told Plaintiff that they would hire her to assist Plaintiff prepare the meal for the dinner party.
19. By way of background, Plaintiff’s girlfriend is black.
20. That day (i.e., July 13, 2019), Plaintiff’s girlfriend arrived at the Falcones’ Hamptons home in order to assist in preparation for the dinner party. This was the first time Defendant LISA FALCONE had ever met Plaintiff’s girlfriend, and further, it was the first occasion Defendant LISA FALCONE had to learn what she looked like (i.e., Defendant LISA FALCONE never previously had occasion to meet her in person or see a photograph of her). In other words, until Plaintiff’s girlfriend had arrived at her home, Defendant LISA FALCONE would have never known Plaintiff’s girlfriend was a black woman. Ultimately, the dinner party was a success.
21. The following morning (July 14, 2019), while Plaintiff was at the Falcones’ Hamptons home working, Defendant LISA FALCONE approached Plaintiff while he was in the kitchen and stated to him in a surprised tone: “Your girlfriend speaks very well. She seems educated. I would describe her as a chocolate-covered marshmallow.”
22. Plaintiff was offended by this racist remark. Defendant LISA FALCONE then proceeded to ask Plaintiff, “Do you use the word ‘nigga’ at home with your girlfriend?” Plaintiff was shocked that Defendant LISA FALCONE used the word “nigga” in describing his

girlfriend. Defendant LISA FALCONE noticed the shocked and offended expression on Plaintiff's face, however, rather than apologize, she said defensively, "I'm Puerto Rican and grew up in Spanish Harlem so I can speak like that" (seemingly inferring that because she herself is a minority she is allowed to use racist language about others).

23. The following day—to wit, July 15, 2019—Plaintiff approached Defendant LISA FALCONE and asked her why she said that his girlfriend "speaks well and seems educated," to which Defendant LISA FALCONE responded, "I meant she speaks really eloquently. Alicia [Keys] doesn't speak that way. She didn't have an education and was just discovered by Clive Davis when she was fifteen years old. Swizz [Beatz] definitely doesn't speak that way either." Plaintiff understood this response to mean that (according to Defendant LISA FALCONE) black people talk a certain way whereas his girlfriend didn't, as she (the girlfriend) talked like a "smart" and "educated person" (suggesting that talking "smart" and like an "educated person" is inapposite to how black people speak).
24. That evening, the Falcones asked Plaintiff to deliver some pizzas to a beach near their home around dinnertime, which he did. However, upon delivery, and having been disgusted by the repeated racist remarks about Asian and black people, Plaintiff resigned his employment, believing that no reasonable person in his shoes should or could be expected to endure such a discriminatory and hostile work environment.
25. Significantly, Plaintiff approached Defendant LISA FALCONE and told her that he could no longer work for them and that her earlier comments were inappropriate and discriminatory in nature. Defendant LISA FALCONE nevertheless responded, again, that she was Puerto Rican, insinuating that she had a "free pass" to make such remarks. To this, Plaintiff replied, "I'm Filipino. What does it matter? There is no excuse for

making such remarks.” However, in response, Defendant LISA FALCONE stated insultingly, “You’re not ethnic like black people and Puerto Rican people. You’re *only* a minority” (implying there is some sort of hierarchy for minorities, for which she and black people are at the top and Filipinos (and/or Asians for that matter) are not).

26. Then, rather than accepting Plaintiff’s resignation, Defendant LISA FALCONE asked Plaintiff not to resign and stated “talk to my black friends” (seemingly referring to Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz—both of whom were at the beach with the Falcones at that time), and emphasized “they will tell you that I am not racist.” Since Defendant LISA FALCONE was clearly in denial regarding her own words and actions, Plaintiff politely excused himself and left to collect his things from their house.

27. However, shortly after leaving, Swizz Beatz called Plaintiff on his cell phone to inquire as to what occurred and the reason Plaintiff resigned. When Plaintiff explained to him what Defendant LISA FALCONE had said about his black girlfriend, Swizz Beatz actually told Plaintiff that he supported his decision to resign and said it was commendable that he stood up for himself and his girlfriend.

28. The following day—July 16, 2019—Plaintiff sent a formal email to Defendants which read, in relevant part:

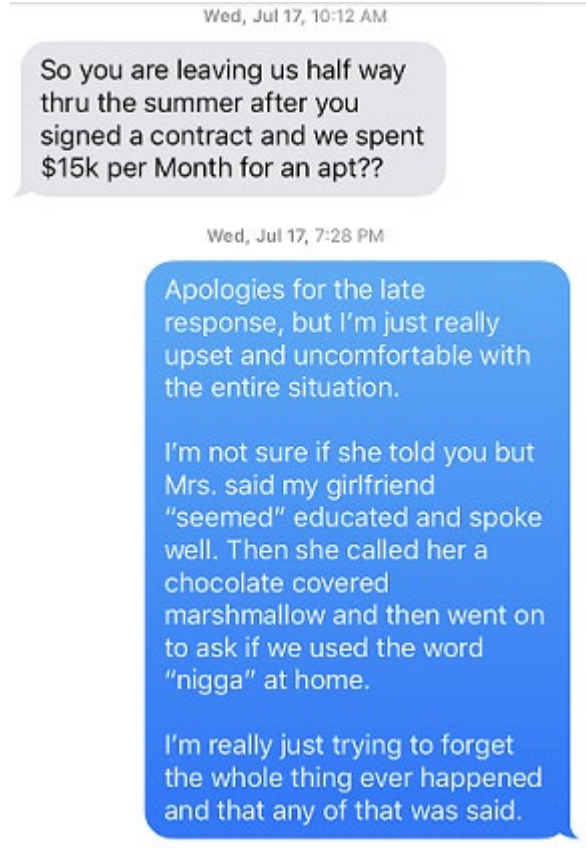
Effective Monday July 15, I would like to resign and terminate my employment from FFO Group as personal chef. ...

Racially charged statements were made towards my girlfriend and I, the former temporarily hired as a chef to help cater a dinner event at the Falcone household, which created an uncomfortable work environment, my reason for resignation.

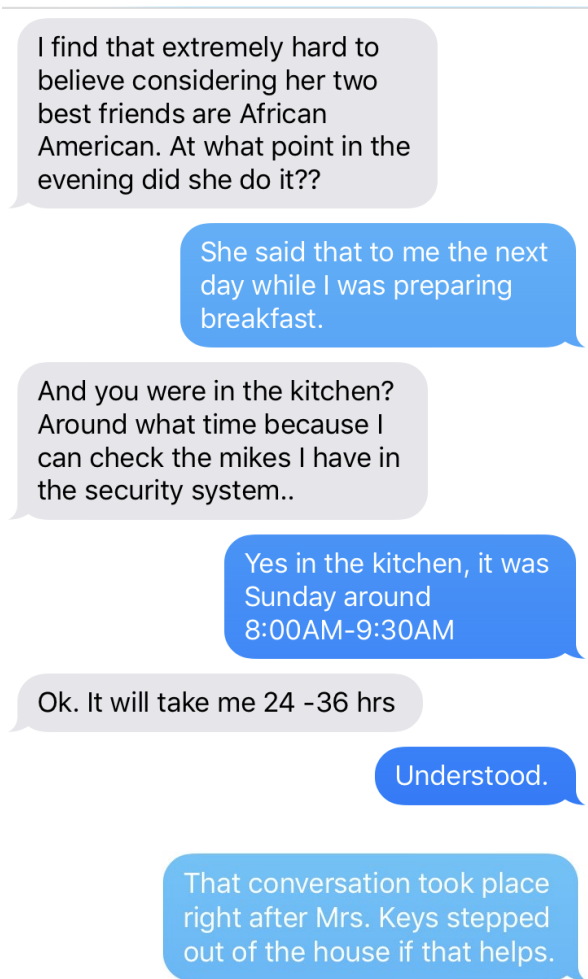
Brian Villanueva

29. On July 17, 2019, Plaintiff and Defendant PHILIP FALCONE engaged in a text exchange, which was initiated by Defendant PHILIP FALCONE, which read (Defendant

PHILIP FALCONE's texts on the left; Plaintiff's texts on the right):



30. Defendant PHILIP FALCONE next inquired as to the circumstances of her saying this and, unbeknownst to Plaintiff, revealed that in the kitchen of their Hamptons home, the Falcones had an audio recording system installed. Plaintiff explained where and when it happened. Their exchange was as follows:



31. Defendant PHILIP FALCONE did not respond to this last text message or ever tell Plaintiff what was revealed after reviewing the audio recordings from the morning of July 14, 2019. (Also, it should also be noted that Defendant PHILIP FALCONE was either mistaken or dishonest in his text message above – Defendants and Plaintiff never entered into any contract).
32. Nevertheless, despite the constructive discharge suffered by Plaintiff, he was still owed approximately \$4,230.76 in unpaid salary for work performed from June 30, 2019 through July 15, 2019. (In fact, on July 16, 2019, Plaintiff emailed with Defendant FFO GROUP's assistant controller (i.e., a woman named Adriana) who confirmed he was

owed the \$4,230.76).

33. That said, on Monday, July 22, 2019, Plaintiff emailed Adriana again and inquired about obtaining this owed salary (as well as \$145.53 in unpaid money Plaintiff had personally spent out-of-pocket for business expenses and which he had previously submitted receipts for reimbursement). Notably, throughout Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, he had routinely submitted business expenses for reimbursement.
34. In response, Adriana instructed Plaintiff to contact Defendant PHILIP FALCONE directly regarding the unpaid salary and reimbursement for expenses, which Plaintiff did.
35. Plaintiff and Defendant PHILIP FALCONE communicated that day (i.e., Monday, July 22, 2019), as well as on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, however, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE told Plaintiff that the only way Defendants would pay him anything (including salary owed for work performed in July) was if both he and his girlfriend sign general releases of claims, which included confidentiality provisions. In other words, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE refused to pay Plaintiff money Plaintiff had already earned unless both he and his girlfriend signed confidentiality agreements.
36. To this day, Defendants refuse to pay Plaintiff any money owed unless he and his girlfriend *both* sign general releases which include confidentiality provisions agreeing to keep confidential "any facts referring to any experiences [they] learned during [their] employment" including the creation of a hostile work environment experienced by Plaintiff and the racist remarks made by Defendant LISA FALCONE, or the existence of the agreements themselves. In other words, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE told Plaintiff the only way he would pay Plaintiff money he lawfully owed him was if both he and his girlfriend agree to sign agreements that they'd never talk about the comments made by

Defendant LISA FALCONE to anyone for the rest of their lives or the fact that they entered into such agreements.

Allegations Relating to Retaliation Claims

37. On or about August 22, 2019, a letter of representation was sent to Defendants on behalf of Plaintiff which generally outlined the facts which formed the basis for the claims and which later became part of this lawsuit, along with an invitation to discuss resolution. This letter was received by Defendants on August 24, 2019.

38. On August 31, 2019, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE emailed Plaintiff. In this email, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE wrote, in relevant part:

“I am also in [the] process of retaining a professional investigation unit, Bo Dietl Investigations, Inc. with whom I have cc’d, to potentially interview the children to ascertain whether there was any issue with Mr. Villanueva during their study periods when they were often alone with him in the home.”

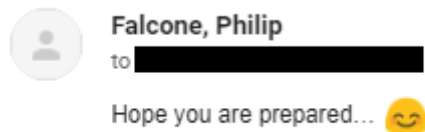
Defendant PHILIP FALCONE was referencing his two youth daughters in this email. Also, as stated, CC’d on this email was Bo Dietl—the former New York City police officer turned private investigator who previously worked for Fox News and was allegedly hired by former chairman and CEO Roger Ailes to investigate and discredit some of the women who had accused network executives (including himself) of sexual harassment.

39. Plaintiff did not respond to this email.

40. Thereafter, on October 1, 2019, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE called Plaintiff’s attorney on the telephone. During this conversation, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE told Plaintiff’s attorney that the investigation into Plaintiff had been completed and that he (meaning Plaintiff) “would not like what was uncovered.” When Plaintiff’s attorney asked Defendant PHILIP FALCONE to be more specific, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE

demurred, instead threatening that Plaintiff would “find out.”

41. Shortly thereafter, on October 7, 2019, Plaintiff spoke with the friend of his who had originally put Plaintiff and Defendants in touch with one another about Plaintiff working for the Falcones in the job underlying this legal matter. Specifically, this friend told Plaintiff that Defendant LISA FALCONE had contacted him (i.e., the friend) for the purpose of “getting dirt” on Plaintiff, emphasizing that she said they needed any information they had on Plaintiff.
42. This lawsuit was then commenced on November 6, 2019 by the filing of the federal complaint in this action.
43. That same day (i.e., November 6, 2019), Defendant PHILIP FALCONE emailed Plaintiff at 4:49 PM the following:



44. Plaintiff did not respond to this email. Nevertheless, the following day (i.e., on November 7, 2019), Defendant PHILIP FALCONE emailed Plaintiff at 2:16 PM. The body of that email read: “Care to see it??” and attached was a digital photo of what appeared to be the table of contents page of a “report.” The email is below:

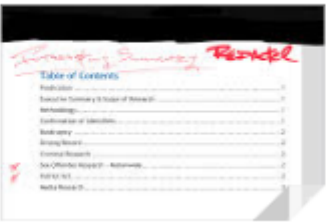


Falcone, Philip

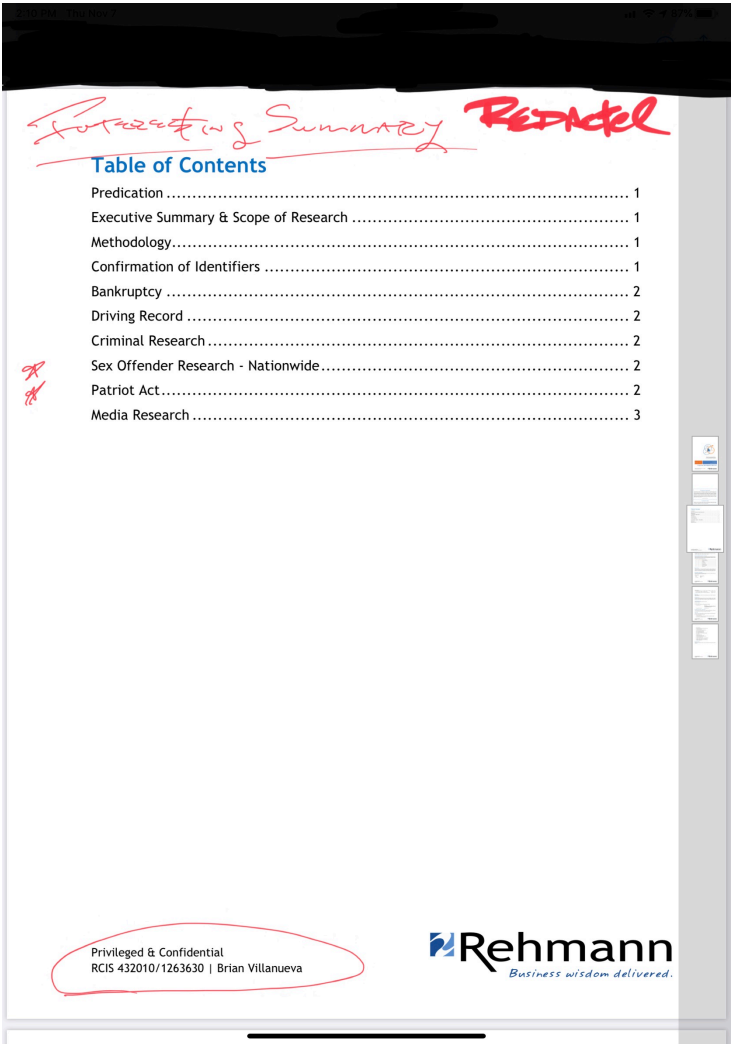
to [REDACTED]

Care to see it??

2 Attachments



45. As mentioned, attached to this email was a photo, which is enlarged here:



46. Plaintiff understood this to be a .jpeg of the table of contents page of a “report,” and on this page there is handwritten and underlined in red ink the words “Interesting Summary,” and in the bottom left-hand corner it read, in part: “Brian Villanueva” and was circled. This page also included two hand-written stars next to the categories “Sex Offender Research – Nationwide,” and “Patriot Act.”
47. By way of background, sex offender registration guidelines provide comprehensive federal and state law requirements in order to maintain a system for monitoring and tracking convicted sex offenders following release from incarceration into the community. Further, the U.S.A. Patriot Act (referred to shorthand as the Patriot Act) was a law passed in 2001 in the wake of the September 11 attacks in order to combat terrorism.
48. In light of this email, as well as prior communications between Plaintiff and Defendant PHILIP FALCONE, Plaintiff understood this email to be a threat that if Plaintiff didn’t drop this legal matter, Defendants would cast him (falsely it should be emphasized) as a sex offender and/ or a terrorist. This further coincides with prior threats made by Defendant PHILIP FALCONE that his youth daughters would make things up about Plaintiff suggesting that he engaged in inappropriate activities of the sexual nature in their presence.
49. In essence, after Defendant PHILIP FALCONE learned that Plaintiff was standing up for his legal rights and stated that he was considering pursuing legal action, Defendant PHILIP FALCONE weaponized his daughters and concocted a fake story which he threatened to be delivered by them (i.e., the daughters) as an intimidation tactic in an attempt to scare Plaintiff from proceeding forward, threatening that his daughters would

accuse Plaintiff (falsely it should be noted) that Plaintiff is a pedophile and engaged in inappropriate conduct of the sexual nature when their parents (i.e., Defendants PHILIP and LISA FALCONE) weren't around.

50. It should be emphasized that Plaintiff neither is nor ever has been a sex offender, nor a terrorist for that matter. Further, Plaintiff has never engaged in any inappropriate sexual conduct around anyone's children (much less the Falcons'). These allegations and/or insinuations by Defendant PHILIP FALCONE are baseless attempts to intimidate, bully, and scare Plaintiff from pursuing legitimate legal claims against Defendants, and are retaliatory in nature.
51. Both the sending of the letter of representation and the filing of this action were protected activities under the law, and in response to Plaintiff participating in these protected activities, Defendants engaged in actions which would deter an ordinary reasonable person from exercising one's legal rights.

Facts Relating to Plaintiff's Minimum Wage Claims

52. In the event it is determined that Plaintiff is not entitled to recover unpaid wages at his salary rate, he would be entitled to minimum wage at the relevant minimum wage rate, as it is alleged that he has not been paid altogether for work performed for Defendants.
53. The Fair Labor Standards Act applies, inter alia, in circumstances where employees are "engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce." 29 U.S.C. § 206.
54. Throughout the entirety of Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, he handled goods and products that were moved in interstate commerce. Specifically, as mentioned above, Plaintiff's primary duties and responsibilities included shopping for food and cooking meals for Defendants PHILIP FALCONE and LISA FALCONE (and others). Plaintiff

routinely purchased and prepared food which was not grown in New York State (and was imported from outside the state), including items such as avocados, oranges, and chia seeds.

55. During the entirety of Plaintiff's employment with Defendants, the minimum wage rate for persons employed in New York City to employers with 10 or fewer employees, was \$13.50 per hour.
56. Throughout Plaintiff's employment, he routinely worked from approximately 6:30 AM to approximately 9:00 PM Monday thru Friday (off Saturday and Sunday) (with exceptions from time to time). Plaintiff maintained working approximately 72.5 hours per week during the 16-day period of June 30, 2019 thru July 15, 2019 period (with the adjustment that his days off usually came in the middle of the week and he instead worked on weekends). As alleged above, he was not paid anything for work performed during this period.
57. In the event Plaintiff is not entitled to recover unpaid wages at his salary rate (which, as mentioned, was \$100,000 per year), he would be entitled to \$13.50 per hour in minimum wage (and \$20.25 per hour [i.e., $\$13.50 \times 1.5$] for all overtime hours worked).
58. The June 30, 2019 – July 15, 2019 period encompasses 16 days. For the two weeks of non-payment, during which Plaintiff worked approximately 72.5 hours each week, he would be entitled to \$1,198.12 ($[\$13.50 \times 40 = \$540.00] + [\$20.25 \times 32.5 = \$658.12]$) in unpaid minimum wage and overtime. Further, for the remaining two days during the week of July 15, during which he worked approximately 14.5 hours each day, he would be entitled to \$391.50 ($[\$13.50 \times 14.5 \times 2 = \$391.50]$) in unpaid minimum wage.
59. Accordingly, in the event it is determined that Plaintiff is not entitled to recover unpaid

wages at his salary rate, he would be nevertheless be entitled to recover \$1,589.62 ([extract_itex]1,198.12 +[/extract_itex]391.50]) in unpaid minimum wage.

Allegations Relating to Plaintiff's Discrimination and Retaliation Claims

60. Plaintiff has been unlawfully discriminated against, suffered a hostile work environment and constructive discharge, and has been retaliated against.
61. Defendants' actions and conduct were intentional and intended to harm Plaintiff.
62. As a result of Defendants' discriminatory and retaliatory treatment of Plaintiff, he has suffered emotional distress.
63. As a result of the acts and conduct complained of herein, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer the loss of income, the loss of a salary, bonuses, benefits and other compensation which such employment entails, and Plaintiff has also suffered future pecuniary losses, emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment of life, and other non-pecuniary losses.
64. As a result of the above, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of the Court.
65. Defendants' conduct has been malicious, willful, outrageous, and conducted with full knowledge of the law. As such, Plaintiff demands Punitive Damages as against all Defendants, jointly and severally.

**AS A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
FOR DISCRIMINATION UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1981**

66. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation made in the above paragraphs of this complaint as if same were set forth herein fully at length.
67. 42 U.S.C. § 1981 states in relevant part as follows:
 - (a) Statement of equal rights

All persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall have the same right in every State and Territory to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, give evidence, and to the full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of persons and property as is enjoyed by white citizens, and shall be subject to like punishment, pains, penalties, taxes, licenses, and exactions of every kind, and to no other.

(b) “Make and enforce contracts” defined

For purposes of this section, the term “make and enforce contracts” includes the making, performance, modification, and termination of contracts, and the enjoyment of all benefits, privileges, terms, and conditions of the contractual relationship.

68. Plaintiff was discriminated against by Defendants on the basis of his race (Asian) as provided under 42 U.S.C. § 1981, causing him to suffer damages.

**AS A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
FOR DISCRIMINATION UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1981**

69. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation made in the above paragraphs of this complaint as if same were set forth herein fully at length.
70. 42 U.S.C. § 1981 states in relevant part as follows:

(a) Statement of equal rights

All persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall have the same right in every State and Territory to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, give evidence, and to the full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of persons and property as is enjoyed by white citizens, and shall be subject to like punishment, pains, penalties, taxes, licenses, and exactions of every kind, and to no other.

(b) “Make and enforce contracts” defined

For purposes of this section, the term “make and enforce contracts” includes the making, performance, modification, and termination of contracts, and the enjoyment of all benefits, privileges, terms, and conditions of the contractual relationship.

71. Plaintiff was discriminated against by Defendants on the basis of his association with a black person as provided under 42 U.S.C. § 1981, causing him to suffer damages.

**AS A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DISCRIMINATION
UNDER THE NEW YORK CITY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

72. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation made in the above paragraphs of this complaint as if same were set forth herein fully at length.
73. The New York City Administrative Code § 8-107(1) provides that “It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice: (a) For an employer or an employee or agent thereof, because of the actual or perceived age, **race**, creed, color, national origin, gender, disability, marital status, partnership status, caregiver status, sexual orientation or alienage or citizenship status of any person, to refuse to hire or employ or to bar or to discharge from employment such person or to discriminate against such person in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment” (emphasis added).
74. Defendants engaged in unlawful discriminatory practices in violation of the New York City Administrative Code § 8-107(1)(a) by discriminating against Plaintiff because of his race (Asian), causing him to suffer damages.

**AS A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DISCRIMINATION
UNDER THE NEW YORK CITY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

75. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation made in the above paragraphs of this complaint as if same were set forth herein fully at length.
76. The New York City Administrative Code § 8-107(1) provides that “It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice: (a) For an employer or an employee or agent thereof, because of the actual or perceived age, **race**, creed, color, national origin, gender, disability, marital status, partnership status, caregiver status, sexual orientation or alienage or citizenship status of any person, to refuse to hire or employ or to bar or to discharge from employment such person or to discriminate against such person in

compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment” (emphasis added).

77. Defendants engaged in unlawful discriminatory practices in violation of the New York City Administrative Code § 8-107(1)(a) on the basis of his association with a black person, causing him to suffer damages.

**AS A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW
FAILURE TO PAY EARNED WAGES**

78. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation made in the above paragraphs of this complaint as if same were set forth herein fully at length.
79. Plaintiff earned “wages” within the meaning of NYLL § 190(1).
80. Defendants, in failing to pay Plaintiff for work performed, have violated the NYLL, including, inter alia, Article 6 and Section 191.
81. As a consequence, under NYLL § 198, Plaintiff is entitled to: (a) the full amount of underpayment, (b) attorneys’ fees and costs, (c) prejudgment interest, and (d) an additional amount as liquidated damages equal to one hundred percent of the total amount of the wages found to be due.

**AS A SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW
FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEE EXPENSES**

82. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation made in the above paragraphs of this complaint as if same were set forth herein fully at length.
83. Plaintiff incurred certain out-of-pocket expenses for which he and Defendants expected and anticipated reimbursement.
84. Plaintiff is entitled to reimbursement of these expenses. See NYLL § 198-c.
85. Defendants, in failing to reimburse Plaintiff for these expenses have violated the NYLL.

86. As a consequence, under NYLL § 198, Plaintiff is entitled to: (a) the full amount of reimbursement, (b) attorneys' fees and costs, (c) prejudgment interest, and (d) an additional amount as liquidated damages equal to one hundred percent of the total amount of the reimbursements found to be due.

**AS AN SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR RETALIATION
UNDER THE NEW YORK CITY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

87. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation made in the above paragraphs of this Complaint as if more fully set forth herein at length.
88. The New York City Administrative Code § 8-107(7) provides that it shall be unlawful discriminatory practice: "For an employer ... to discharge ... or otherwise discriminate against any person because such person has opposed any practices forbidden under this chapter..."
89. Defendants engaged in an unlawful discriminatory practice in violation of New York City Administrative Code § 8-107(7) by retaliating against Plaintiff because of Plaintiff's opposition to the unlawful employment practices of Plaintiff's employer.

**AS AN EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT
MINIMUM WAGE**

90. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation made in the above paragraphs of this complaint as if same were set forth herein fully at length.
91. All Defendants willfully employed Plaintiff in the aforementioned enterprise and failed to compensate Plaintiff at the required minimum hourly rate during certain periods of his employment.
92. All Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff the mandated minimum hourly pay in accordance with the Act was a direct violation of the Act, specifically 29 U.S.C. § 206.

93. All Defendants' failure to pay proper minimum wages for each hour worked was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255.

94. All Defendants' failure to comply with the FLSA caused Plaintiff to suffer loss of wages.

**AS A NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF NEW YORK LABOR LAW § 652(1)
MINIMUM WAGE**

95. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation made in the above paragraphs of this complaint as if same were set forth herein fully at length.

96. Plaintiff was an employee of all Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law.

97. All Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff the required minimum hourly wage rate for one hour of work during certain periods of his employment.

98. All Defendants violated Plaintiff's right to minimum wage pay under § 652(1); New York Labor Law, Article 19.

99. All Defendants also violated New York's Minimum Wage Order of 12 NYCRR Part No. 142.

100. On account of such violations, all Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for actual, statutory and liquidated damages.

101. All Defendants' actions were willful.

102. All Defendants' failure to comply with the New York State Labor Law and New York's Minimum Wage Order caused Plaintiff to suffer loss of wages.

JURY DEMAND

103. Plaintiff requests a jury trial on all issues to be tried.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests a judgment against all Defendants:

A. Declaring that all Defendants engaged in unlawful employment practices prohibited by

42 U.S.C. § 1981, the New York City Human Rights Law, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the New York Labor Law;

- B. Declaring that all Defendants engaged in unlawful employment practices prohibited by the FLSA and NYLL by failing to pay Plaintiff earned wages and failing to pay him minimum wage and overtime;
- C. Awarding damages to Plaintiff for all lost wages and benefits resulting from Defendants' unlawful employment practices and to otherwise make him whole for any losses suffered as a result of such unlawful employment practices, including liquidated damages and interest;
- D. Awarding damages to Plaintiff resulting from Defendants' unlawful discrimination and retaliation, as well as for violations of the FLSA and NYLL, and to otherwise make him whole for any losses suffered as a result of such unlawful employment practices;
- E. Awarding Plaintiff compensatory damages for mental and emotional, distress, pain and suffering and injury to his reputation in an amount to be proven;
- F. Awarding Plaintiff punitive damages;
- G. Awarding Plaintiff lost wages and reimbursement of expenses due to Defendants' willful violations of the NYLL;
- H. Awarding Plaintiff attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses incurred in the prosecution of the action; and
- I. Awarding Plaintiff such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable, just and proper to remedy the Defendants' unlawful employment practices.

Dated: New York, New York
December 16, 2019

NISAR LAW GROUP, P.C.



By: _____

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